Brittany Rodrigue

Introduction to American Education

ID: 100500665

October 20th, 2013

Schools of Philosophy

The three schools of Philosophy that match my own feelings about schooling are behaviorism, progressivism, and humanism. I believe behaviorism is crucial for schooling because of the reinforcement aspect. The reinforcement approach is used for discipline approaches and motivation. External rewards are given for good performances and good behavior, which ultimately becomes naturally rewarding. Whenever someone does something good and they feel relieved or accomplished, this is because of reinforcement with behaviorism. Behaviorism also focuses on how the environment plays an effect on a human more so than heredity. The classroom climate is teacher controlled because of this and the environment is focused on desired outcomes with classroom organization.

Progressivism is an educational philosophy that emphasizes that ideas should be tested by experimentation and that learning is rooted in questions developed by learners. I strongly believe that ideas should be tested by experimentation because this is exactly like a hypothesis approach in science. You create something, and see if it works. The disciplinary approach for progressivism is absolutely essential I believe. The concept is that students will recognize that everything we do or think affects others, which is called the chain reaction today. I prefer the classroom environment to behaviorism because it is a nonstop debate. The climate contains democratic decision-making, mutual respect for diverse points of view, and clarifying personal points of view with evidence is valued. I believe debates promote logical thinking and social interaction where you don’t necessarily get in a teacher controlled environment.

Humanism is the educational philosophy that contends to humans are innately good, they are born free but become enslaved by institutions The learning focus of humanism is unique because it develops a free-self actualized person which I think is extremely beneficial all around. The classroom climate allows the freedom to explore but no one is inhibited by the actions of others. A company is Australia allows their employees to have a day of free creation. Some of their best products come from this day where their employees have no limitations and no expectations, they just create something beneficial. The motivation factor for the humanism approach is extraordinary. Students are allowed to develop their individual interests, and students have freedom so motivation is natural.

There are several things within the schools of philosophy that make a school a foundation to learning. The reinforcement approach within behaviorism promotes good behavior and self-esteem. The chain reaction concept and democratic decision-making within progressivism is essential because it builds a group of people that rely on each other and creates logical thinking as well social interaction. Humanism is all about freedom, which essentially makes motivation natural, which is an incredible thing when people are forced to do something. I think these three approaches combined would make a successful school.